

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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P 152302Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, US, ET

SUBJECT: DIFFICULTIES OF ADDIS HILTON

REF: STATE 085067

1. STRAND CALLED AGAIN TODAY, APRIL 15, TO SAY HE IS INSTRUCTING PETER SMITH TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 16 TO INFORM HIM OF ADDIS HILTON'S PREDICAMENT AND ENLIST EMBASSY'S SUPPORT. ESSENTIALLY PROBLEM SEEMS TO STEM FROM DISPLEASURE OF A FACTION OF ETHIOPIAN STAFF WITH PAY, LACK OF ETHIOPIANS IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS, AND NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WORKING AT HOTEL. THIS DISPLEASURE WAS REASON FOR ETHIOPIANS' REPORTING SOME ANTI-PMG REMARKS BY HILTON'S GERMAN BANQUET CHAIRMAN (NOT CHEF) TO AUTHORITIES WHICH LED TO HIS ARREST.

2. STRAND WAS IMPRESSED WITH VIGOROUS ACTION BY GERMAN EMBASSY AND HOPES THAT U.S. EMBASSY WILL TAKE EQUALLY

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HELPFUL STAND WITH APPROPRIATE PMG OFFICIALS. STRAND BE-

LIEVES THAT STRONG STAND BY EMBASSY WITH PMG AUTHORITIES
IS NEEDED BOTH TO PERMIT CONTINUED EFFECTIVE OPERATION
OF HOTEL AND TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE OF NON-ETHIOPIAN STAFF.

SUCH EMBASSY SUPPORT WOULD HELP IMPROVE MORALE OF HILTON'S
NON-ETHIOPIAN STAFF WHICH IS UNDERSTANDABLY LOW IN VIEW
OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF
ETHIOPIAN STAFF TO CAUSE THEM TROUBLE BY GOING TO AUTHOR-
ITIES. STRAND SUGGESTS THAT POINT BE MADE TO AUTHORITIES
THAT HILTON ACCEPTS SOCIALISM IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND
OPERATES PERFECTLY WELL IN THEM BUT THAT NO AMERICAN BUS-
INESS CAN CONTINUE EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS UNDER CONDITIONS
DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. HILTON MANAGER WILL BE RAISING ABOVE POINTS WITH
AMBASSADOR. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S TAKING ANY ACTION
IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN THIS SITUATION AND LETTING US
KNOW ABOUT IT SO WE CAN KEEP STRAND INFORMED. KISSINGER

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